(c) whether State Government actively implement proposals sent by Government for the well-being of Anganwadi workers; and

(d) the States which are still not making payment of hiked honorarium to such workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir; Government of India has always been conscious of the importance of the role of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.

(b) Government has extended facilities such as paid absence on maternity for 135 days and 20 days leave per year. Insurance cover has also been extended by the Government to them w.e.f. 1.4.2004 under the Life Insurance Corporation's Social Security Scheme. A scheme of Awards, for exemplary work, has also been introduced from the year 2000 both, at the National and State level. Besides, the State Governments have also been requested to reserve 25% of the vacant post of the Supervisors for AWWs, to recruit at least 25% of AWH to the post of AWW, set up Grievance Redressal Machinery at the State/UT level and District. Level for prompt redressal of their grievances etc.

(c) The Government issues guidelines from time to time in the matter which are, generally, followed by most of the States/UTs.

(d) The honorarium payable to AWWs and AWHs was last enhanced in the year 2002. No complaint of non-payment of honorarium as per the revised rates has come to the notice of the Government in the recent past.

Health related deficiencies in children

†2250. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that children upto the age of 14 years are found suffering from many health related deficiencies;

(b) if so, what are these deficiencies and the percentage of children suffering from each type of deficiency;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether there are any schemes already implemented by Government to remove such health deficiencies; and

(d) if so, the names of the said schemes and the details of amount spent out of allocated fund for these schemes during the year 2005-06 and the first nine months of 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Children are vulnerable to several health deficiencies like Vitamin A, Iron, Iodine, nutrition and others. As per the recent National Family Health Survey-III (2005-06) 21% children in the age of 12-35 months received Vitamin A dose in last six months, 79.2% children in the age 6 to 35 months are anaemic, 38.4% children under three years are stunted, 19.1% children under three years are wasted and 45.9% children under three years are underweight.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Several schemes and programmes are being implemented by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for providing immunization and vaccination to protect children from deficiencies and diseases. National Rural Health Mission and Reproductive and Child Health Programmes are also being implemented to provide health services to children.

Details of amount spent out of allocated funds for these schemes during 2005 and 2006-07 are being obtained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Acid attack on women

2251. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noted a steep rise in nearly irreversible damage to women by premeditated acid attacks as published in the print media recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have refused to extend financial assistance to such victims for plastic surgery, etc.; and

(c) the steps proposed to evolve a package of assistance for surgery and a monthly stipend to such victims of a rare type of violence?